FALL WORKSHOP PROGRAM

THURSDAY — SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

8:00 - 9:00 AM — ***BREAKFAST***

9:00 - 9:30 AM — **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM — **STATE UPDATES**

Moderator: **Maggie Rivers**, GA Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission

A fast-paced look at emerging regulatory issues, policy developments, and trends shaping state oversight across the country.
*15-minute break around 10:45 AM

12:00 - 1:15 PM — ***LUNCH ON OWN***

1:15 - 2:15 PM — **RISK-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION OVERSIGHT**

Scott Brees, Pew Charitable Trusts
Phillip Oliff, Pew Charitable Trusts

The Problem: As interest and enrollment in nondegree credentials has surged, many states are looking for effective and efficient ways to protect students from low quality programs.

A Potential Solution: Motivated in large part by a string of school bankruptcies and closures that harmed a significant number of veterans and other Post-9/11 GI Bill beneficiaries, the American Legion and Education Counsel conducted a pilot study in 2020-2021 that tested a risk-based oversight model in six states: Nevada, Texas, Illinois, Virginia, New York, and Delaware. The study demonstrated that the model made the best use of regulators' scarce time and resources by focusing their attention and effort on a small share of the institutions and programs that potentially posed higher levels of risk.

During this session, we will provide an overview of the model followed by a discussion with the audience about how this model could serve as a template for states.

2:30 - 3:30 PM — **THE FEDERAL LANDSCAPE: NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY AND STATE RESPONSE**

Julie Woodruff, Thompson Coburn LLP

Explore recent federal policy shifts, Department of Education developments, Workforce Pell implementation, and implications for state regulators.

3:45 - 5:00 PM — **LISTSERV LIVE**

Moderator: **Heather DeLange**, CO Department of Higher Education

Bring your questions and discuss the latest regulatory challenges with colleagues from across the country. Topics will be driven by attendee submissions and current issues facing state regulators.

5:00 - 6:00 PM — ***HAPPY HOUR***
Sponsored by Verif-y

EVENING — **INFORMAL NETWORKING DINNER (OPTIONAL)**

FALL WORKSHOP PROGRAM

FRIDAY — SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

8:00 - 9:00 AM — ***BREAKFAST***

9:00 - 10:30 AM

AI LAB FOR STATE REGULATORS: PRACTICAL TOOLS, PROMPTS & AGENTS

Maggie Rivers, GA Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission
Kevin LaMountain, Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education

Bring your laptop! This hands-on workshop will introduce practical AI tools, prompting techniques, and AI agents that can support regulatory work. Through live demonstrations and guided exercises, participants will build prompts, explore real regulatory use cases, and leave with a library of prompts and workflows to explore.

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

WHAT WOULD YOUR STATE DO? A REGULATOR CASE STUDY FORUM

Facilitators:
Sean Seepersad, Connecticut Office of Higher Education
Heather DeLange, CO Department of Higher Education

Work through real-world regulatory scenarios in small groups and compare approaches from across the states. Case studies will focus on current regulatory challenges, with participants sharing key takeaways and practical solutions.

12:00 - 1:00 PM — ***LUNCH ROUNDTABLES: WHAT'S KEEPING YOU UP AT NIGHT?***

1:00 - 2:00 PM

PREPARING FOR CHANGE: STATE RESPONSES TO A SHIFTING FEDERAL AND ACCREDITATION LANDSCAPE

Sam Loftin, Washington Student Achievement Council
Sandra Freeman, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

As changes continue across the U.S. Department of Education and the accreditation system, states are evaluating how to respond while maintaining effective oversight and protecting students. This facilitated discussion will begin with a few state perspectives before opening the conversation to attendees to explore challenges, lessons learned, and strategies for navigating an evolving regulatory landscape.

2:00 - 3:00 PM

REGULATORY WHACK-A-MOLE: TACKLING UNAUTHORIZED PROVIDERS, BAD ACTORS, AND EMERGING OVERSIGHT CHALLENGES

Sean Seepersad, Connecticut Office of Higher Education

New provider models, unauthorized online institutions, misleading advertising, and bad actors continue to challenge regulators nationwide. This facilitated discussion will explore how states are addressing illegal operations, educating the public, building interagency partnerships, and protecting students in an increasingly complex regulatory environment.

3:00 - 3:15 PM

WORKSHOP SYNTHESIS & REFLECTIONS

3:15 - 5:00 PM

REGULATOR EXCHANGE: INFORMAL NETWORKING & OPEN DISCUSSION

An optional informal gathering to continue conversations from the workshop, share lingering questions, exchange ideas, and connect with fellow regulators in a relaxed setting before departing Portland.